



GVHC Gets Under Way As Board Considers Operational Problems

By Larry Fink

Amid a beehive of activity, inventory taking, office renovating and equipment repairing—the Greenbelt Veteran Housing Corporation board met at the organization's new headquarters, the maintenance building behind the 36 court of Ridge road. The three cashiers' booths now under construction will be in operation for the collection of rents and payments on homes under GVHC contracts on February 1. Pending their completion, the PHA office at the center will be used by the organization for collecting rents and payments.

To answer the many questions leveled at the board and office staff by its membership on utility charges and accrual of equity, a flyer is now being prepared. It was decided by unanimous vote of the board that no person would be given the authority to shift a refrigerator or range from one Greenbelt home to another, unless it is personal property. (The organization is short about 100 refrigerators and a dozen ranges.) As an extra activity, the board has begun preliminary negotiations for the mass purchase of electrical appliances, including refrigerators and ranges. Savings of 30 to 40% will be effected.

The board decided that tenants planning to leave Greenbelt will be required to give one month's notice in writing on or before the day their rent is due.

As of February 1, occupants of open garages are to be charged \$3 per month. It was also voted that henceforth nominal fees will be charged prospective purchasers who deposited funds to buy a unit, and then requested a refund. As of Monday evening, 1076 contracts for the purchase of homes have been completed; 13 original homes and three or four defense homes are vacant. However, the demand is great and assurance was given that all units would be rented or sold shortly.

GVHC, City Confer On Payment Of Tax

Negotiations will soon begin between Greenbelt Veterans Housing Corporation and the city council to arrange monthly payments of taxes. The city charter provides that the year's taxes must be paid by September. Public Housing Administration had been making monthly payments. City Manager Charles McDonald disclosed at last Monday's council meeting that the city would have to borrow money to operate the city if the payments were not made until September. Interest charges would be included in the budget and would only raise the amount paid in. McDonald disclosed, urging that arrangements for monthly payments be made.

If GVHC pays the lump sum in September, the payment would also include taxes for October, November, and December. Since the housing group makes only monthly charges, it might be a hardship to pay three months' taxes in advance, McDonald added.

GCS Board Meets Friday; Co-op Reports Top Sales

The board of directors of Greenbelt Consumer Services will hold its first regular meeting of the New Year at the Takoma Park meeting room Friday, January 9 at 8 p.m. After a holiday of nearly a month, the directors will take up a number of organization problems, including the co-op's monthly newsletter.

Sales by GCS set all-time highs (for the two shopping centers) of \$112,000 for the week before Christmas and \$102,000 or Christmas week, representing a 40% increase over last year.

Band Selects Ronca As New Conductor

Mike Ronca, popular band master at Northwestern High School, was invited to conduct Greenbelt Community Band rehearsals beginning last Monday night. Since Dana Garrett's resignation, Rosario Cataldo, retired Navy band leader, has conducted two rehearsals and the Christmas program during the month of December.

Along with winning two Lions Club competitions, one in 1948 and the other in 1951, Ronca directed the Northwestern High School Band into being one of the top five high school bands in the nation selected by Paul Whiteman to appear in Philadelphia and perform on his TV program last year.

Ronca was also elected president of the Maryland Music Education Association for two years. As a leader of music and organizer of bands, Ronca is well-qualified and capable of instilling in the children an appreciation of music and giving to them that satisfaction and joy that comes from playing an instrument, according to Band president, Vincent Caruso.

The Greenbelt Community Band will soon be elevated to its rightful position among the best bands in this area. Parents are urged to encourage their children to join the Band, since new instruments have been purchased, distributed and others turned in. Many instruments are available. Beginners' classes start January 12 to January 30. Initiation fee is \$1.00, and thirty-five cents dues for rehearsals every Monday night.

Nursery Sponsors 2 FSA Films Monday

Two films distributed by the National Institute of Mental Health (of the Public Health Service, Federal Security Agency) will be shown Monday evening, January 12, in the home economics room of the Center School. They are PREFACE TO A LIFE and CHILDREN'S EMOTIONS. Their showing in Greenbelt is being sponsored by the Greenbelt Cooperative Nursery School. ALL INTERESTED PARENTS ARE INVITED. Audience discussion following the films will be led by the teacher, Mrs. Ruth Bowman.

A short business meeting is scheduled for 8:30, and the films for 9 p.m. Admission is free, refreshments will be served, and everyone is welcome.

What Goes On

Monday, January 12 - Cooperative Nursery sponsors Mental Health Pix, Home economics room, Center School, 9 p.m.
Wednesday, January 14 - Annual Benefit Movie - "The Yearling" - 2:30 p.m. Greenbelt Child Care Center Benefit, Greenbelt theater.
Wednesday, January 28 - Boys Club Football Banquet POSTPONED to this date. 6:30 p.m., Community Church.
Saturday, January 10 - JCC Membership Meeting, Center School Social Room. 8:30 p.m. Rabbi Waldman, speaker.

An Estimated 600 Ask Rent Hearing

A large group of Greenbelt citizens is protesting the rent increase by sending letters and typed post cards to the Office of Rent Stabilization in Silver Spring. According to one informed source, possibly "over 600 people are involved." One rumor places the responsibility for the protest drive on the American Legion. Commander Clarence Anders declared that there is no official sanction by the Legion; however, he knows several Legion members who are active in the campaign for personal reasons. He added that the Legion had passed a resolution protesting the rent increase and sent it to ORS before the increase was granted. They have never received any acknowledgment, nor were the many letters sent to ORS before the increase went into effect ever acknowledged. The cards and letters are primarily aimed at securing a public hearing, which was not held prior to the granting of the increase. Those involved state that they are not satisfied that a democratic procedure in the rent increase issue was followed, since no hearing was held.



—Photo by Del Ankers

TIME PASSES—Commissioner John T. Egan receives on behalf of the Public Housing Administration the down payment which transfers Greenbelt to the possession of its resident owners. Mike Salzman, president of the Greenbelt Veteran Housing Corporation, hands over the check representing members' initial investment in the community.

Dogged Council Pursues Project To Hound PEPCO From Greenbelt

By I. J. Parker

Providing electric power for Greenbelt is still the intention of the city council. City Manager Charles McDonald has been directed to request the Maryland Public Service Commission for authority to operate an electric utility. The action resulted after disclosure by city solicitor Ralph Powers at last Monday night's council meeting of a plan to operate such a utility. Powers outlined the procedure; (1) get authority from PSC, (2) hold a referendum to get approval from the citizens of a bond issue to finance the venture, (3) purchase the existing equipment from Potomac Electric Power Company.

1st Local Performance Of "Messiah" Sunday

By Elizabeth Goetze, Minister of Music

On Sunday, January 11, at 8 o'clock, the Chancel Choir and soloists of Community Church will sing the Christmas portion of Handel's MESSIAH. Soloists will be Mrs. Francis White, soprano; Mrs. Nelson Chapman, alto; Kenneth Keeney, tenor; and George Timmerman and Mike Littleton, bass. The public is cordially invited to this first presentation of MESSIAH in Greenbelt.

It is a singular fact that the composer who has left the deepest impress on English music should have been a German who came to England as an upholder of a purely Italian art. Handel was called to England to supply the upper classes with operas in the Italian style - this circle of English society not being interested in English music - and this great musician turned to the English oratorio only after his repeated failures and bankruptcies in the operatic field. And in the oratorio, Handel gave England a national substitute for opera. This oratorio was not humble church music, but entertainment of the musico-dramatic kind, though on a higher moral plane, closer to and befitting English taste.

The MESSIAH has determined the conception and style of the oratorio to our day. Handel has given us a work predominantly lyric in nature, a contemplation of the life of the Saviour, dramatic only through its intensity of feeling. The MESSIAH has become the epitome of the modern oratorio, which is understandable, uniting as it does choruses, arias, and recitatives into a great hymn and conjuring up a Christianity without denominational coloring.

Handel completed MESSIAH in twenty-four days! After a rehearsal on April 8, 1742, it was performed for the first time at a charity concert held at Dublin on April 13! A year later it was heard in London, and since that time has probably had more performances than any masterwork in the history of music. It is interesting to note that for the original performances of MESSIAH, Handel employed about sixty singers and instrumentalists!

City Changes Leave Rules; Vote One Raise

Permission to grant "compensatory" leave in January to employees with over 30 days leave was given City Manager Charles McDonald at last Monday's council meeting. Because of McDonald's illness, the holiday pressure on manpower, and for other reasons, several employees were requested to forego taking leave during December; the manager did not feel it was proper to penalize them for their loyalty to duty.

A small salary increase was granted to the Foreman of Public Works. He has been at the top of his salary classification for several years without any increase.

If a referendum is successful, Powers stated, PSC would probably order Pepco to sell the equipment at its fair value, since the citizens would be directly expressing a desire for local ownership of the utility. Failure to grant a franchise to Pepco would eliminate it from the utility picture, and leave the way open for city operation if authority is granted, he added.

Powers' plan to "short-circuit" Pepco's operation in Greenbelt was the second of two courses. The other, fighting the validity of Public Law 65 in the courts, would be against great odds; the last congressional law upset by the courts, in Powers' memory, was NRA. Both plans were presented by Powers only if the council was "intent on providing service" themselves. He refused to discuss the bad sides of the proposals at this time.

A report on a meeting with Pepco officials by Mayor Frank Lastner and McDonald disclosed that Pepco is disturbed by the poor public relations developing from their invasion of Greenbelt to install meters. Poor cooperation between their legal staff and the maintenance department was blamed. They promised future care and consideration in the Greenbelt installation, and admitted they have already spent \$40,000 on meters as part of an over-all investment of \$160,000. They are "considering" the urban rate (cheaper) for Greenbelt, but their map of areas designated for the urban rate does not include Greenbelt. Many repairs and replacements of equipment are anticipated by Pepco and a plan to relocate street lights for better and cheaper illumination is being considered.

Pepco's legal department will soon meet with city officials to discuss the franchise, schedule of charges, and other related matters. Authority to operate in Greenbelt at present without a charter is granted by a state law which provides utilities may continue operation in an area that they have serviced earlier, until a franchise is granted.

In regard to "over-charging" for a franchise, Powers explained that PSC requires that utilities earn a fair profit and any such overcharge will be considered in establishing the rates for power. McDonald disclosed that Pepco is now functioning in Greenbelt efficiently; they have 24-hour crews on the alert for "outages" (broken bulbs, etc.) and respond quickly in emergencies. Their huge reserve of equipment and man-power was particularly apparent to residents in the meter installation.

Library Gets Photos

The local library has acquired photographs of Greenbelt in its early and late stages of development from Public Housing Administration. It was announced at last Monday's council meeting. The pictures were PHA property, but the agency found it had no facilities to store them or provide for their keeping. They were therefore "dedicated" to the local library.

GREENBELT COOPERATOR

AN INDEPENDENT NEWSPAPER

OUR PURPOSE:

1. To report Greenbelt news fully, fairly and accurately.
2. To serve the best interests of the cooperative movement.

Ralph G. Miller, Editor-in-Chief

Juanita Chandler, Betty Coleman, E. Don Bullen, Keith Gamble, Sonia Garen, Marian Halton, Miriam G. Johnson, L. A. Lee, Joe Macchio, Dorothy McGee, Dor's Melnick, Bill Moore, Lydala Palmer, George Reeves, David Reznickoff, Ethel Rosenzweig, Aimee Slye, Miriam Solomon, Morris J. Solomon, Mary Jane Zust, Rae Algaze, I. J. Parker, Eleanor Ritchie, Janice Solet, Harry Zuckoff.

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Power-ful Problem

City Solicitor Ralph Powers' plan to "short-circuit" PEPCO's operation of the electric utility in Greenbelt was proposed only if the city council was intent on operating the utility itself. It is surprising to see the council grasp at this last straw to obstruct what is practically an accomplished fact. After observing Pepco in action the last few weeks, and learning what is involved in operating such a utility, we wonder if it is wise to attempt to assume such a tremendous burden at this time.

Mayor Frank Lastner seems determined to salvage some shred of satisfaction from his losing efforts with PHA and Pepco. It is apparent this can't be done by an exorbitant franchise fee, or upsetting the sale of the utility, or debating the legality of Public Law 65. More apparent is the tremendous extent of resources at Pepco's disposal in operating the power distribution and maintaining it; for instance, small utilities need to wait over a year for delivery of meters! Pepco had them available at a moment's notice—and installed them.

Much of the present power equipment needs replacing and repair. A staff of experts is needed for this work. It is a costly business. We seriously doubt whether the citizens would permit financing such a venture through a bond issue. We doubt whether Powers himself felt the plan he proposed was suitable for our municipality; he acted in accordance with his instructions. We even doubt that the council members, other than Lastner, really want to undertake this venture.

The real battle for the utility should have been fought during the negotiations for dedication of federal property; PHA's adamant attitude prevailed. We lost the electric utility. To continue the issue is folly, and we may wind up being thankful that we lost.

More important at this time is to fight for the lower urban rate. We hope that the city council, GVHC, and local citizens press Pepco on this issue with all the strength at their command.

A Stake In Greenbelt

The influence of the Farm Bureau Insurance Companies on the development of Greenbelt has been and continues to be tremendous. This is not news to those who have worked closely with organizations having dealings with Farm Bureau, but to others, a reminder may be of interest.

The cooperative insurance company provided the \$150,000 needed by Greenbelt Veteran Housing Corporation to make the down-payments on unsold houses. The money was lent to GVHC by the Peoples Development Company, a wholly-owned subsidiary of Farm Bureau.

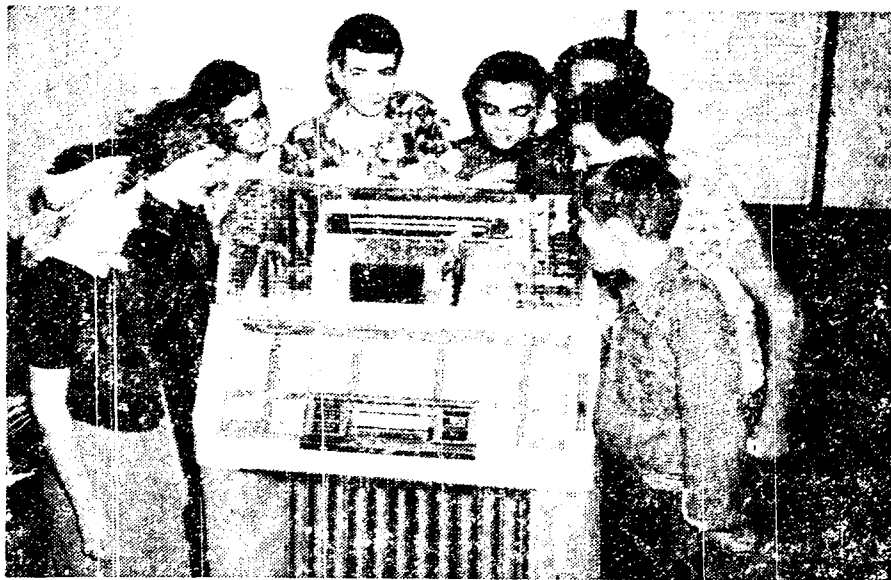
If this were not enough, the same subsidiary came forward with another \$85,000 to permit the housing corporation to buy 800 acres of undeveloped land in Greenbelt from Public Housing Administration. The \$85,000 loan for the down-payment on the undeveloped land was made without jeopardizing the investments of GVHC members who are buying homes here, as PDC did not require any equity in the built-up portions of the city as security.

In a less direct but very important way, Farm Bureau contributed to the passage of legislation which made possible the sale of Greenbelt to its residents. Wallace J. Campbell, of the Cooperative League (half of whose support is derived from Farm Bureau dues), was an effective spokesman for mutual ownership of Greenbelt and convinced many congressmen that residents of Greenbelt, and not speculators, should have the first right to buy Greenbelt and that the National Housing Act should provide favorable terms for cooperative construction of homes.

The Farm Bureau's assistance in solving the Housing group's problems was a corollary to its aid to Greenbelt Consumer Services. It gave the local cooperative a big boost by advancing the \$100,000 needed to equip and stock the Takoma supermarket and the \$75,000 needed for the superdrug store in the same shopping center.

The total of Farm Bureau's investment in Greenbelt organizations amounts to \$410,000 but their interest doesn't stop there. As part of the loan agreements with GCS and GVHC, the insurance company must approve the appointments of the general managers of both local groups.

Farm Bureau's assistance has given Greenbelt a big lift. It is a healthy sign when a successful organization sees fit to invest in Greenbelt's enterprises and in its future.



Admiring the new juke box recently installed at the Drop-Inn are (left to right) Judy Wright, Carol Ann Stasiunas, Fred Macchio, Don Peardleton, Carl Schrom, Kenny Reamy, David McDonald, Johnny Berry.

Boy's Club Activities

By Lee

Our basketball season is about to open and the boys are "earin'" to get started. The tentative program is for the Seniors to open the season Tuesday evening, January 13. All teams have new uniforms except the Midgets. Everings of practice are as follows: Coach Paul Strickland and his intermediates (14 years and under, but may become 15 during playing season) Wednesday evenings 6:30 to 8 p.m.; Coach Cliff Cockill and his Midgets Saturday mornings 9 to noon; and Bob Lirdemon and his seniors Tuesday evenings 6:30 to 8 p.m. Pete Cookson will coach the seniors when Bob leaves sometime this month.

All you fellows interested in basketball come on down at the practice time of your age limit, especially you fellows who are now playing for the Junior high and JV teams. Although you will not be able to play for the Boys Club until your school season ends, you will be eligible to play for the Boys Club in the play-offs if you are signed up.

The annual Parents and Sons Boys Club Football Banquet scheduled for January 21 is postponed for one week. Disregard date printed on the ticket! The banquet will be held Wednesday, January 28 at 6:30 p.m. in the Community Church. The reason for the postponement is that it would conflict with the election meeting of the Prince Georges County Boys Club Board of Directors to be held that evening at the Prince Georges Country Club. All parents of boys on any of the football teams are urged to come to the banquet, have a good dinner, hear some interesting speakers, and see their boy receive his letter or trophy as the case may be. More information on the banquet, and lists of guests and visitors, will be published next week. See you next week.

D.C. Church Federation Gives 6-Week Course

The tenth annual session of the Christian School in the Nation's Capital, sponsored by the Department of Christian Education of the Washington Federation of Churches, will be held at Calvary Baptist Church, 8th and H Streets N.W., in Washington, for six Tuesday evenings beginning January 13.

Community Church is paying the registration fee for all teachers and parents of the church who attend. Those wishing to attend are requested to call the church office, 7931, if they need or can offer transportation.

Three periods each evening - 6:10-7:25; 7:30-8:10; and 8:15-9:30 - will offer instructors from Westminster Theological Seminary, and clergymen from churches in and around Washington. At the 7:30 period, Dr. Joseph R. Sizoo will be the lecturer.

HEBREW SERVICES

Rabbi C. H. Waldman

Services will be held in the social room of the Greenbelt Center school, Friday evening at 8 p.m. Candlelighting time, 4:30 p.m.

DRIVE CAREFULLY

My Daze

WHEN OUR FIVE-AND-A-HALF-YEAR-OLD'S front tooth suddenly loosened, he greeted this sign of maturity with surprised delight. Since it fell out, a proud, open-mouthed grin displays the empty space. Placed hopefully under a sofa cushion, the departed tooth was soon redeemed for a sum our boy considered munificent. So the march goes on, as we parents watch each step with keen interest. As one child learns to walk, talk and eat, another begins to skate, dance, and dress himself. Raising kids, my husband notes, is almost as much fun as raising tomatoes. (The results are equally unpredictable, I say.)

THE BOY ASKED THE MEANING OF "HISTORY", and I did my conscientious best to explain that it's a record of past events, a continuous story of the lives and deeds of men living before us. When I was satisfied he understood, I inquired where he came across the word. It turned out he wanted to know what it was Rudolph the Red-nosed Reindeer was going to go down in.

AT UNEXPECTED MOMENTS the baby will dig his teeth into the nearest bit of flesh not his own. We're trying hard to discourage it; or rather, we tried. (The Gesell Institute would call it another stage which I must sit out patiently.) Anyway, I said to the baby, "Don't bite; kiss." I held my hand to his mouth, saying, "kiss." He bit me. Over and over, I kissed his hand, and he bit mine in return, until I gave up in favor of a new policy. Now, when the baby snuggles up, we beware and get ready to escape his jaws. Discretion is the better part of valor, as the saying goes.

Which mother, after two weeks of school vacation, doesn't welcome the "return to normalcy?"

-- DAISY

OUR NEIGHBORS

Mary Jane Kinzer, long-time and well-known resident of Greenbelt, who has been on the staff of the Public Housing Administration as far back as anyone can remember, has accepted a position with GVHC to handle resident services. Her appointment was announced yesterday, and met with general approval. The experience she has gained with PHA through the years makes her eminently well qualified for this job, and Greenbelters will be happy to see her familiar face in the GVHC office.

This Sunday at 8 p.m. at

Greenbelt Community Church

HANDEL'S MESSIAH

(Part I, including the Hallelujah Chorus)

by

Chancel Choir and Soloists of the church

under the direction of

Miss Elizabeth Goetze, Organist

ST. HUGH'S CATHOLIC CHURCH

Confessions: Saturday afternoon from 3 to 5:30 p.m. for children and in the evening from 7 to 9:30 p.m. for adults.

Sunday: Masses: 7:30, 8:30, 9:30 and 11 a.m. Nursery care for pre-school children during the 11 a.m. Mass. Children attending public schools, both grade and high, are asked to attend the 8:30 a.m. Mass and to be present for the religious instruction period immediately following that Mass. This is Holy Communion Sunday for members of the Holy Name Society.

Baptisms: Sunday, 1 p.m. Anyone wishing to have a baby baptized should notify Father Dowling beforehand.

Wednesday: Novena Services followed by Benediction of the Most Blessed Sacrament at 8 p.m. Regular monthly meeting of the Holy Name Society immediately following the Novena Services.

MOWATT MEMORIAL METHODIST CHURCH

C. R. Strausburg, Minister

Sunday, January 11 - Session of the Sunday School, 9:30 a.m. Richard Hoffman, superintendent. Classes for all. Worship service and sermon, 11 a.m. Sermon by the Pastor, "The Added Touch." Special music by the Choir. Nursery during the worship hour.

All Sunday services held at the North End elementary school.

Thursday, January 8 - Choir rehearsals at the Chapel, Junior Choir, 7 p.m. Senior Choir, 8 p.m.

COMMUNITY CHURCH PROTESTANT

Eric T. Braund, Minister

Thursday, January 8 - 8:15, Discussion Group, at the home of Mrs. Ralph Converse.

Sunday, January 11 - Church School as follows: 9 a.m. Primary and Nursery; 10 a.m., Juniors through Adults; Men's Bible Class; Fidelis Bible Class; 11 a.m., Kindergarten, Beginners, and Nursery. 9 and 11 a.m., Morning Worship. Sermon by Mr. Braund, "What Must We Do To Be Saved?" At 11 a.m., the Carol Choir will sing, in addition to the Chancel Choir. 8 p.m., Handel's MESSIAH. 9 p.m., Board of Deacons meet.

Monday, January 12 - 8 p.m., Evening Guild.

GREENBELT LUTHERAN

Robert E. Jones, Vicar

Saturday, January 10 - 11 a.m., Junior Choir Rehearsal.

Sunday, January 11 - 9:45 a.m., Sunday School and Adult Bible Class. Classes are held for all ages. 11 a.m., Divine Worship. Sermon by the Vicar on Isaiah 54, 2-3 "Lengthen and Strengthen." Nursery maintained during worship. Communion Service.

Tuesday, January 13 - 8 p.m., Men's Club.

Wednesday, January 14 - 8 p.m., Senior Choir Rehearsal.

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GREENBELT MOTORS - Baltimore Avenue, next to College Park Diner. Used Cars and Trucks - bought and sold. Phone GRanite 3-4466.

LOTS FOR SALE - one or two adjacent lots in Berwyn Heights. One block west of Edmonston Road. Lot 50x200. Linderman, 7-A Laurel Hill. GRanite 3-6623.

RIDE WANTED - to 17th Street, N.W., vicinity Constitution or Pennsylvania Avenue. Working hours 8:45 to 5:30. R. G. Miller. GR. 3-2617.

PETS BOARDED, bought, sold and exchanged. Good homes for unwanted pets. Little Pet Farm, 11061 Balto. Blvd. WEBster 5-6239.

MAN WANTED to assist in manufacturing of rubber stamps. Marvelous opportunity for advancement. GR. 3-3446.

FOR SEWING, ALTERATIONS, call Mrs. B. A. Swiges, 24-M Ridge. Curtains, mending. Draperies a specialty.

THE SITTERS POOL, one of Greenbelt's cooperative ventures, offers reliable parents as sitters. The only fee is hours in return sitting. For further information, call Jeanette Zubkoff, 5801 or Rita Hazelton, 7736.

HELP WANTED - Saleswoman with chain store experience to sell hardware at Variety Store. Apply at GCS office.

LOST - green wallet, Sunday, at center. Please return papers, keep the money. 14-A Hillside. GR 3-6561. Mrs. Coulter.

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1951 FORD

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Tripoli Report

Eileen Mudd Labukas, formerly of the Recreation department, is now living in Tripoli, Libya with her daughter Kathy, aged 2½ years, and husband Pete, who is on duty there with the Air Force.

The Labukas's, who arrived in Tripoli last December, sent a Christmas letter to friends in Greenbelt. Among other things here is what they wrote: "Pete had done an excellent job of house-hunting, for we live in a brand new four apartment villa with walled-in yard in what is known as Garden City. . . .

"It was our teen-age Arab Ghafir who taught us the ropes, so to speak, when we first arrived - where to show, how to shop, how to bargain and the value of the local money, as well as explaining the various customs of the natives.

"Three other American families moved into our villa - two of whom came over on the plane with us. Altogether we had six children in our family ranging in age from Kathy at 18 months to Vickie, a 9 year old, so there was plenty of activity as the younger set got acquainted with each other and each other's toys. The 'older set' got busy too - the wives with ideas and the men with hammers and nails. You see, all the homes over here consist of four walls with nary a closet or cupboard to be found - also no hot water and no central heating. And so the westernization of our villa began; with salvage lumber we soon had wardrobes in the bedrooms, cabinets in the kitchen, linen closets in the bath and attics in the hall - good looking ones, too! . . .

"We laugh heartily when we recall those first few months of 'pioneering' - borrowed bed springs supported by bricks, wooden cartons with wobbly shelves for dressers, boxes for extra chairs and the like. You see, instead of getting local furniture, we accepted the military's offer to transport our furniture overseas for us, and it arrived in March! Even our 400 lbs. of essential clothing and cooking equipment which supposedly travels concurrently arrived a month after we did. . . .

The next few months were spent getting used to being an Air Force family and visiting the various points of interest in and around Tripoli - the Old City where the Arabs work and live in small cell-like homes and where the streets are so narrow one can almost touch the walls on each side; the salt fields where the Arabs 'harvest' salt from the sun-dried water beds; the limestone quarries where the natives cut out blocks by hand for the building business; the ancient wells where water is pulled up by hand for personal needs and by oxen for irrigation purposes; the nomad camps where the wanderers live during the various harvest seasons; and the farms of citrus fruit groves olive trees and grape vineyards. . . .

"With spring came the week-end visits to the beach where Kathy and her playmates enjoyed the sand and the waves of the blue Mediterranean; the gals got good tans; and 'the boys' went spear fishing. With Spring, too, the rains left and the 'ghiblis' arrived - and we had these sand storms on the average of twice a month with the temperatures rising to well over a hundred for a week or two at a stretch. . . .

"Then in July we had the most wonderful experience of our lives - a month's tour of Europe. We visited Athens, Rome, Nice, Paris, London, Munich and Garmish in Germany, and Lucerne, Switzerland. We saw the ancient Greek and Roman ruins, the catacombs, the Eiffel Tower, Arch de Triomphe, Westminster Abbey, London Bridge, Piccadilly Circus, King Ludwig's Castle and the original Passion Play Theatre. . . .

"We have had the opportunity to see so many new and strange sights we often forget the real purpose of our stay here. Pete, however, has been kept quite busy with his job of planning and supervising the recreational and educational activities provided for the airmen. We are looking forward to coming home next June and returning to civilian life."

Dollars and Sense

CONSUMERS' CHOICE?

If the newspaper accounts are complete, it would seem that the President's Commission on Health Needs of the Nation dodged an important question which involved consumer choice: Should the consumer be free to spend his income as he sees fit? Or should government, through its taxing power spend it in some other way?

There is a point of view which maintains that each citizen should decide how his income will be spent. Each family knows its own individual needs better than the government does. When government tells the individual family how to spend its income (by taxing part of it and then "giving it back") isn't this the "road to serfdom?"

American consumers spend more on liquor and tobacco than on medical care. Is government justified in taxing income to "correct" this? The American Medical Association says No. If more medical care is "needed", it argues, isn't it up to the individual family to forego things like television, movies, liquor, and tobacco, before it gets medical care free or partly free? This is essentially the argument of the AMA.

EXCEPTIONS COME TO MIND

The argument "CONSUMER IS KING. LET HIM LIE IN THE MUD IF HE WANTS TO" somehow breaks down in places. A peculiarly American breakdown was the rise of the public education system. It is now commonly accepted that we cannot leave it to the choice of the individual parents whether children will receive an elementary school education. In large cities a family can't choose not to have his garbage collected. Certain public health measures such as injections, vaccinations, x-rays, blood tests are provided free or almost free by local governments. Libraries are commonly provided free. Recreation is provided free. On the other hand, the sale of some commodities are severely restricted. The outstanding restriction is the sale of drugs.

The examples cited above are no longer debated. Why do we consider these exceptions favorably? **NEXT WEEK: When should government provide services, free or partly free?**

Sleepy Driver Wakes In Mac's Front Yard

A Bowie driver last Tuesday night drove off the Greenbelt Road and ended up in the field in front of City Manager McDonald's house.

A member of the Berwyn Heights Rescue Squad said that the driver had dozed off at the wheel.

January 8, 1953

GREENBELT COOPERATOR

Three

Bird Color Film Here Tuesday Night

This is the title of the next bird lecture to be held at the Greenbelt theatre on Tuesday, January 13 at 7:30. It is a 55 minute, all-color, movie on birds of the Washington area and also on rare birds in other parts of the United States.

A MUST for all bird lovers, it is included in the "Audubon Screen Tour". This "Tour" is a method of making the best bird movies available all over the country.

The film will also show sequences on one of the rarest birds in the United States - the Kirtland Warbler. This warbler summers in the northern part of Michigan and winters in the Bahamas. These are the only two places in the world where it can be found. Sequences on the Golden Eagle and on the Prothonotary Warbler are also included in the film.

All Scouts and bird lovers are urged to see this film. The film was photographed by and will be shown by Ralph Lawrence of the Washington Audubon Society.

Attention!

It surely would be a help to Greenbelters if a warning sign could be erected at the intersection at Greenbelt road and Edmonston road, whenever there is high water at Peace Cross. Also it has been suggested that the siren be sounded to caution drivers to leave 15 minutes earlier on such mornings. We wonder if the Greenbelt Police Department could perform this public service for Greenbelt residents.

Abramowitz Opens Show

Benjamin Abramowitz, local artist, will open a one-man show of his paintings on Sunday, January 11 at the Watkins Gallery of the American University. About 24 paintings taken from his production of the last few years will be exhibited. Most of the canvases have never been shown before.

Greenbelters are invited to the opening between 2 and 5 p.m. Sunday. The gallery is on the university campus at Massachusetts and Nebraska Avenues, N.W. Exhibition dates are from January 11 to February 8.

The driver and the car were unharmed, but the automobile, stuck in the mud, defied the first efforts of the rescue squad to haul it back 200 feet to the highway.

Notice

The picture in last week's Cooperator of Farra Bureau Tony Madden and the Lawrence family appeared without a credit because of an oversight. Photographer was Cooperator staff - Paul Kasko, our loyal and ubiquitous lensman.

Waltonians Submit "BB" Plan to City

The city council will consider a written report from the local Izaak Walton League outlining the air ride program the league sponsors for local youngsters. Permission to hold classes in the armory is now being sought, and transportation to the armory is needed. City officials will determine if transportation will be provided after reading and approving the program.

The county commissioners are meeting this week to decide on legislation governing the use of air rifles in the county. Sponsoring legislation to outlaw the BB guns is the District Society for the Prevention of Blindness.

GREENBELT THEATER

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Our Neighbors

By Dorothy McGee, phone 8083

Christmas was filled with happiness for Mr. and Mrs. James Brown, 8-C Hillside, whose son, Private Kenneth L. Brown, was here on a two weeks' leave from San Marcos, Texas where he has been stationed for nearly a year. Private Brown has completed airplane mechanics' school and is now in helicopter mechanics school. Back in Texas he will remember fondly "mom's cooking" because like many mothers, Mrs. Brown enjoyed cooking all his favorite foods during his stay here.

Another Christmas made happier by a reunion was the Jack Fruchtmans of 2-D Woodland Way. Their young son, Jack, who has been staying in Arizona for his health, came east to join his parents for the holiday season which they spent in Florida.

Mr. and Mrs. Henry Raduazo, 14-H Ridge, announce the birth on December 29 at Leland Memorial Hospital of their third son and sixth child, who has been named Fred, after his grandfather.

Speaking of babies (and in case some of you missed the item in the Washington papers) the first baby of the new year in the Washington area was delivered by Dr. William Eisner in Leland Memorial Hospital on the stroke of 12. The infant's parents live in College Park.

Mr. and Mrs. Ralph G. Miller, 9-J Ridge, enjoyed the company of her sister, Miss Mary Helen Russell, who came from New York City last week to visit for several days. Holiday parties enabled Miss Russell to renew many acquaintances made here on former visits.

A favorite TV program with many Greenbelters, "Report Card for Parents," has as its moderator Norman Altman of the firm of Alt-

man and Krooth, associated with Greenbelt Veterans Housing Corporation. Mr. Krooth's wife is the producer of the program which can be seen Monday nights at 8.

Mr. and Mrs. George Kuster, 45-Ridge, had as their house guest for the holidays a dear friend of hers, Miss Ellen Benson of Stockholm, Sweden. Miss Benson delighted her hosts with descriptions of her life in Sweden, where she is the governess to the three sons of the first secretary at the American Embassy. There the children ski to school; their days are very short at this time of year, the light lasting from 10 a.m. for about four hours. The whole family have been here from Sweden for an extended visit. Miss Benson left the States last week for a visit with her own folks in New Zealand. You can join me in an imaginary trip (sigh, sigh!) while I trace her itinerary half-way around the world. She flew by Pan American Clipper to California, thence to Honolulu, to the Fiji Islands and home to Wellington, capital of New Zealand, a trip of three days. On her way back to Sweden, she will stop in Egypt which she has never visited, then to France, England and Stockholm, having covered both ways a distance of some 25,000 miles. Most important item in her luggage as Miss Benson left for New Zealand was a good supply of bubble gum, an American product of great interest to the smallest members of her family, who yearn to blow bubbles as they know the American children can.

At the home of the Tom Ritchies, 37-J Ridge, last Friday evening, a goodly number of Greenbelters enjoyed greeting several couples from out-of-town, who used to live here.

Q&A on Rents; Water, Utilities

Interview with Thomas Ritchie, treasurer of the Greenbelt Veteran Housing Corporation.

Reporter: How much rent will homebuyers and nonbuyers pay?

Ritchie: Everyone in Greenbelt will pay the rent recently authorized by the Office of Rent Stabilization. All residents were notified by PHA of the exact figure for their particular units.

Reporter: What about the payments for utilities?

Ritchie: The same is true for utilities. For the month of January all residents will make the payment which was determined by PHA and of which they were all notified. The rent and utility payments on old Greenbelt homes were due on January 1. The same home tenants will make their payments on January 15, as usual.

Reporter: What about the water and electric bills? Last week GVHC announced that all residents would have to make payments or water. Is this true?

Ritchie: No. For the month of January both water and electric are included in the regular utility payment. Next month, however, on February 1, old Greenbelt residents will pay only half the regular utility payment. This is not true for frame housing residents because their payments are made on the 15th of the month.

Reporter: Does this apply to the apartments?

Ritchie: GVHC did not buy the apartments and has nothing to do with them. No doubt PHA will keep the apartment dwellers informed.

Reporter: How long will residents pay the present rent scale?

Ritchie: For the first year of operation all residents will pay the maximum rents as determined by ORS.

Reporter: What happened to the monthly payment schedule for homebuyers which GVHC distributed some months ago?

Ritchie: That has been modified for the first year of operation. Toward the end of the year a new monthly payment schedule will be announced.

Reporter: But the rent payments are approximately 3% lower than the monthly payments. Can GVHC operate with this reduced income?

Ritchie: Yes, because PHA has granted us a moratorium on principal payments or the first year. We have passed this saving along to the buyers.

Reporter: Will buyers be accumulating equity during this first year?

Ritchie: Yes, it is our intention to add to the members' equity and interest in the working capital an amount equal to at least 5% of the monthly payments.

Reporter: Let's come back to the water bills. What's the situation on that?

Ritchie: PHA has informed us that the water system is being dedicated to the city. They hope to complete the dedication by February 15, and they have asked GVHC, as an interim measure, to handle the payments for water. The easiest and least expensive way of doing this is simply to continue to collect from residents the utility charge which covers both water and electricity, and to turn over to PHA the total amount necessary to pay both bills.

Reporter: What will happen after the city takes over the water distribution? Will GVHC continue to handle the collections and payments?

Ritchie: I don't know. The city council has not yet informed us as to their plans. It may very well develop that GVHC will continue to handle it in the same way for the city, although it is an administrative and bookkeeping burden which we are reluctant to adopt. This may be advantageous to residents, though. On the other hand, the city may be planning to meter the water to individual users, and to do their own billing. You'd have to ask the council that question.

Reporter: As it now stands, though GVHC's responsibility to collect for water and electricity ends on February 15? Because PEPCO takes over the electric system and the city takes over the water system on that date?

Ritchie: That's right.

Reporter: Are monthly charges to members the same as rent to tenants?

Ritchie: No, because members are entitled to a return at the end of the year based on operating costs, while tenants are not.

Interview with Robert W. Wilson executive assistant to the president of the Potomac Electric Power Company.

Reporter: When does PEPCO plan to start operating the electric system in Greenbelt?

Wilson: We plan to start charging

individual users for current beginning February 15. The first bills will be sent out with the March billing cycle.

Reporter: What rate do you propose to charge, the suburban or the cheaper urban rate?

Wilson: That has not yet been decided. We are studying the matter, however, and a decision will be made soon.

Reporter: Have all the meters been installed?

Wilson: There may be a few exceptions, but substantially the meter installation has been completed.

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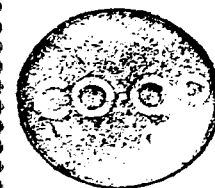
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